



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon
National Parks

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

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Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Open in Winter, but Some Facilities May be Limited or Temporarily Closed for Season

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are open during the winter for many fun activities, including sightseeing, sledding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, but some roads and facilities do close for the season. Generally, snowplows clear roads in priority order, starting with main park roads. Roads and facilities that will or have recently closed include the following:

Between Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks

NEW! This winter, the Generals Highway (main road between Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks) is expected to close between Wuksachi Lodge and Montecito Sequoia Lodge no later than January 2, 2012, through April 1, 2012. (*Note: This temporary closure still allows visitors to access to giant sequoia trees and many popular destinations in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.*) From Highway 198, the closed section of the Generals Highway is located between 23-38 miles from the entrance to Sequoia National Park. In addition, the Generals Highway is closed from 8-23 miles from Highway 180 near the access to Kings Canyon National Park. *However, this section of the Generals Highway could close earlier, depending upon snowfall.*)

In Sequoia National Park

- *NEW!* Giant Forest Museum: Once snow accumulates, parking areas next to the museum and across the road will close until spring. The closest winter parking/restrooms are located at Round Meadow/Big Trees Trail.
- *NEW!* Lodgepole Campground: Campsites & road will close from November 28, 2011, through April 2012. Camping is available at either Potwisha Campground in Sequoia National Park or Azalea Campground in Kings Canyon National Park.
- *NEW!* The Lodgepole Visitor Center is open year-round, but will have limited hours this winter and spring. From November 27, 2011, through spring 2012, the Lodgepole Visitor Center will be open only on Sundays, Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m., with one exception. *From December 24, 2011, through January 2, 2012, the Lodgepole Visitor Center will be open **daily** from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.* The visitor center offers information, exhibits, a bookstore, and restrooms. (*Note:* Two other visitor centers are open daily throughout the year, including the Foothills Visitor Center, which is located 1 mile past where Highway 198

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ends at the entrance station in Sequoia National Park, and the Kings Canyon Visitor Center, which is located off of Highway 180 in Kings Canyon National Park.

- Crystal Cave and Crystal Cave Road: Will be closed until mid-May 2012.
- Mineral King Road: Reopens in late May 2012, snowmelt permitting.
- Moro Rock/Crescent Meadow Road: Closes with snow; reopens with spring melt. No drinking water is available along this road.
- South Fork Road: Partially unpaved; slippery when wet.
- Road to Middle Fork Trail: Unpaved and slippery when wet. Road closes for winter. Park at Hospital Rock Picnic Area.
- Main Sherman Tree Trail & Parking: Road to this parking lot closes when snow accumulates. All vehicles may park in the handicapped-accessible lot off of the Generals Highway in winter.

In Kings Canyon National Park

- Highway 180 (shortly past the Kings Canyon Visitor Center and Grant Grove area) to Cedar Grove: Closed from mid-November 2011 to mid-April 2012 due to rockfall.
- Redwood Mountain Road: Will be unpaved and unplowed.
- Panoramic Point Road: Will close with the first snow. No trailers or motorhomes.

In addition, road conditions can change frequently in winter, and chains may be required at any time. Check out a free educational video, *Snow Chains and Cables*, at <http://www.nps.gov/seki/photosmultimedia/video.htm>.

For general information about the park, including current road and construction information, call 559-565-3341.

—NPS—

SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada in central California, serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts 1.6 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. Visitor activities vary by season and elevation. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/seki or call 559-565-3341.